

(c) Due to gradual decline in ship breaking activity, the number of workers engaged in this industry has come down in recent years. This, however, cannot be attributed to the duty structure as the customs duty rates on ships for breaking in India and the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan are not significantly different. Employment in ship breaking industry is coming down on account of a number of factors, some of which are listed below:

- (i) Price of old ships for demolition in the world market has gone up substantially during last five years.
- (ii) There is shortage of ships for breaking.
- (ii) Less stringent implementation of international environmental and labour safety regulations relating to ship recycling in Bangladesh has resulted in shifting of tanker breakage business to Bangladesh.

(d) and (e) Government has examined a request from Government of Gujarat seeking reduction in customs duty on ships imported for breaking on the ground that, because of high customs duty prevailing in India, ship recycling industry is facing severe competition from neighbouring countries. At the time of formulation of budget 2006-07, 5% customs duty was imposed on melting scrap, so as to bring it at par with that on ships imported for breaking. Government has also exempted 4% additional duty of customs on ships for breaking-up. Comparison with neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh is inappropriate, since Bangladesh does not have an adequate alternate supply of steel and they have to depend on their ship-breaking industry for availability of adequate steel for domestic consumption. In view of this, the request for exempting ships for breaking from import duty has not been accepted.

Promotion of Indian culture in North Eastern Region

†*400. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any effective policy to protect, develop and promote the Indian Culture in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the amount spent during the last three years for this purpose State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture has been making all efforts to protect, develop and promote culture in NE Region by undertaking various activities in the Region through various Plan Schemes of the Ministry as well as its attached/subordinate offices and autonomous organisations. 10% of the total Annual Plan allocation of the Ministry is earmarked for the development of Art and Culture in the North Eastern Region.

(c) The details of the amount spent for developing and promoting culture in North Eastern Region during the last 3 years in respect of organizations/schemes given in the Statement (See below).

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of organisations and the actual/certified expenditure for the activities of North Eastern Region during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

| Sl.No. | Organisation | Actual Expenditure | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| | | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Archaeological Survey of India | 63.20 | 94.16 | 78.72 |
| 2. | Sangeet Natak Akademi | 121.21 | 14.71 | 267.90 |
| 3. | National School of Drama | 79.47 | 71.84 | 109.91 |
| 4. | Sahitya Akademi | 35.00 | 34.22 | 50.64 |
| 5. | Lalit Kala Akademi | 13.50 | 35.03 | 57.06 |
| 6. | Setting up of MPCC | 00.00 | 280.00 | 207.00 |
| 7. | CCRT | 50.37 | 55.00 | 99.02 |
| 8. | Zonal Cultural Centres | 621.35 | 151.64 | 396.44 |

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 9. | IGRMS Bhopal | 38.55 | 30.00 |
| 10. | GSDS | 00.00 | 24.93 |
| 11. | Kalakshetra Foundation | 4.84 | 1.94 |
| 12. | Anthropological Survey of India | 20.59 | 55.31 |
| 13. | National Museum Institute | 00.00 | 1.62 |
| 14. | Victoria Memorial Hall | 25.20 | 31.05 |
| 15. | National Archives of India | 00.00 | 00.00 |
| 16. | National Council of Science Museum | 317.53 | 260.21 |
| 17. | National Museum | 36.21 | 20.38 |
| 18. | Indian Museum | 217.50 | 654.50 |
| 19. | Promotion of Local Museum | 499.00 | 103.53 |
| 20. | RRRLF | 215.68 | 150.21 |
| 21. | MAKAI Kolkata | 17.90 | 8.37 |
| 22. | Allahabad Museum | 00.00 | 3.04 |
| 23. | NRLC Lucknow | 1.77 | 00.00 |
| 24. | Assistance to Dance, Drama & Theatre | 85.66 | 113.21 |
| 25. | Building Grant to Cul. Organizations | 65.94 | 107.14 |
| 26. | National Library, Kolkata | 00.00 | 00.00 |
| 27. | Assistance to Tribal/Folk Art | 00.00 | 00.00 |
| 28. | National Mission for Manuscripts | 00.00 | 20.26 |
| TOTAL: | | 2530.47 | 2322.30 |
| Budgetary Allocation for the activities of North Eastern Region | | 2200.00 | 3545.00 |
| | | | 5511.00 |